

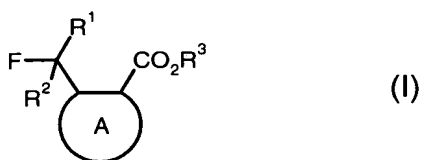
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please change the heading at page #, line 1, from "Claims:" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

-- Claim 18 (new): A process for preparing fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycles of formula (I)



in which

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

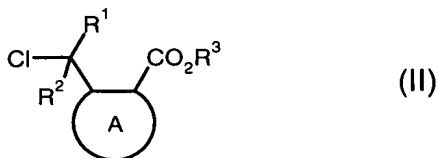
R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl,

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 1-position, thiazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position, and oxazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position, and

R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or phenyl,

comprising converting a chloromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (II)



in which R¹, R², R³, and A are each as defined for formula (I), to a fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (I) in the presence of a fluorinating agent and optionally in the presence of a diluent.

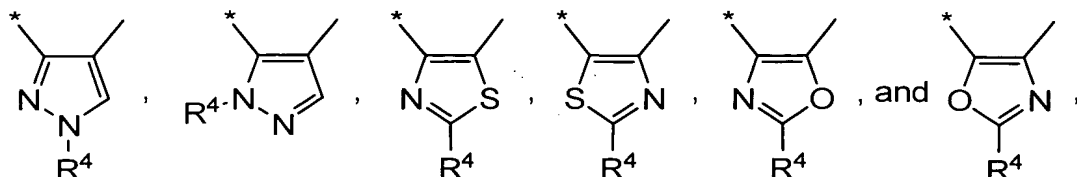
Claim 19 (new): A process according to Claim 18 wherein for the chloromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (II),

R^1 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R^3 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

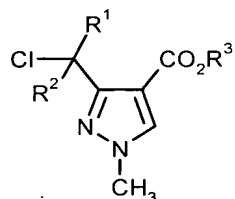
A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group consisting of



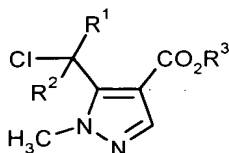
where in each case the bond marked by * is joined to the $-CClR^1R^2$ group and the other bond is joined to the CO_2R^3 ester group, and

R^4 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or phenyl.

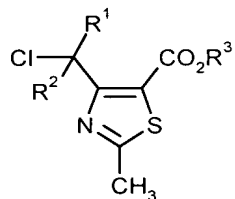
Claim 20 (new): A process according to Claim 18 wherein the chloromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (II) is selected from the group consisting of compounds of formulas (II-a), (II-b), (II-c), and (II-d)



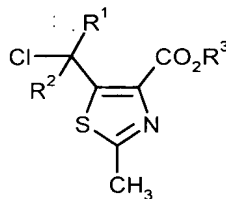
(II-a),



(II-b),



(II-c), and



(II-d),

in which R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are as defined in Claim 18.

Claim 21 (new): A process according to Claim 20 in which R^1 is chlorine, R^2 is hydrogen, and R^3 is methyl or ethyl.

Claim 22 (new): A process according to Claim 18 wherein the fluorinating agent is an alkali metal fluoride, cobalt(III) fluoride, halogen fluoride, antimony fluoride, molybdenum fluoride, hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen fluoride/pyridine mixture, a tertiary ammonium hydrofluoride, or a trialkylamine hydrofluoride of the formula $n \text{ HF} / \text{N(Alk)}_3$ in which n is 1, 2, or 3, and Alk is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$.

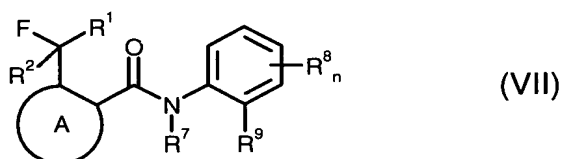
Claim 23 (new): A process according to Claim 18 wherein the fluorinating agent is $3 \text{ HF} / \text{N(Et)}_3$ (Franz reagent), $3 \text{ HF} / \text{N(n-Bu)}_3$, or HF/pyridine (Olah's reagent).

Claim 24 (new): A process according to Claim 18 wherein the fluorinating agent is $3 \text{ HF} / \text{N(Et)}_3$ (Franz reagent) or $3 \text{ HF} / \text{N(n-Bu)}_3$.

Claim 25 (new): A process according to Claim 18 that it is carried out at a temperature of 80°C to 170°C .

Claim 26 (new): A process according to Claim 18 that it is carried out at a temperature of 120°C to 150°C .

Claim 27 (new): A process for preparing a fungicidally active carboxamide of formula (VII)



in which

R^1 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrazole that is substituted by R^4 in the 1-position, thiazole that is substituted by R^4 in the 2-position, and oxazole that is substituted by R^4 in the 2-position,

R^4 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6\text{-cycloalkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylthio-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, or phenyl,

- R^7 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulphinyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulphonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl; is C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylsulphinyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylsulphonyl, halo- C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_3 - C_8 -halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms; is formyl, formyl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl, (C_1 - C_3 -alkyl)carbonyl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl, or (C_1 - C_3 -alkoxy)carbonyl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl; is halo-(C_1 - C_3 -alkyl)carbonyl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl or halo-(C_1 - C_3 -alkoxy)carbonyl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl having in each case 1 to 13 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms; is (C_1 - C_8 -alkyl)carbonyl, (C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy)carbonyl, (C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)carbonyl, or (C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl)carbonyl; is (C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl)carbonyl, (C_1 - C_6 -haloalkoxy)carbonyl, (halo- C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)carbonyl, or (C_3 - C_8 -halocycloalkyl)carbonyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms; or is $-C(=O)C(=O)R^{10}$, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, or $-CH_2NR^{13}R^{14}$,
- R^8 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, isopropyl, methylthio, or trifluoromethyl,
- n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,
- R^9 is optionally mono- to pentasubstituted phenyl having identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_2 -haloalkyl, and C_1 - C_2 -haloalkoxy having in each case 1 to 5 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms, hydroxyimino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxyimino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxyimino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and, when substituted with two adjacent substituents, difluoromethylenedioxy or tetrafluoroethylenedioxy; is C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl or C_3 - C_{10} -bicycloalkyl that is in each case optionally mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen and/or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl; is unsubstituted C_2 - C_{20} -alkyl, or C_1 - C_{20} -alkyl that is mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and/or C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl in which case the cycloalkyl moiety is itself optionally mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and/or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl; or is C_2 - C_{20} -alkenyl or C_2 - C_{20} -alkynyl that is in each case optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by

fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and/or C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl in which the cycloalkyl moiety is itself optionally mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, C₁-C₄-alkyl, and/or C₁-C₄-haloalkyl,

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl; or is C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, halo-C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₃-C₈-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms,

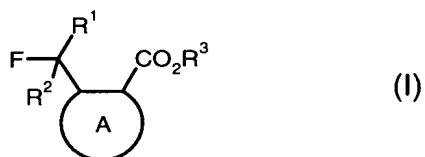
R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl; or are each independently C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, halo-C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₃-C₈-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; or R¹¹ and R¹², together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms that is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and in which the heterocycle optionally contains 1 or 2 additional nonadjacent heteroatoms selected from the group of oxygen, sulphur, and NR¹⁵,

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl; or are each independently C₁-C₈-haloalkyl or C₃-C₈-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine atoms; or R¹³ and R¹⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms that is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and in which the heterocycle optionally contains 1 or 2 additional nonadjacent heteroatoms selected from the group of oxygen, sulphur, and NR¹⁵, and

R¹⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl,

comprising

- (1) hydrolyzing a fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (I)



in which

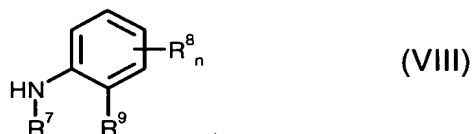
R^1 , R^2 , and A are each as defined for formula (VII), and

R^3 is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl,

in the presence of a base and optionally in the presence of a diluent, to form a free acid, and

- (2) subsequently either

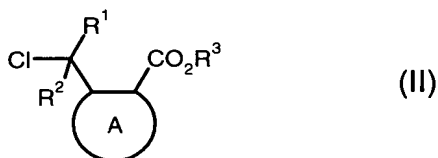
- (i) converting the free acid to the corresponding acid chloride in the presence of a chlorinating agent and optionally in the presence of a diluent, or
- (ii) reacting the free acid directly with an aniline derivative of the formula (VIII)



in which R^7 , R^8 , n and R^9 are each as defined for formula (VII),

optionally in the presence of a catalyst, optionally in the presence of a condensing agent, optionally in the presence of an acid binding agent, and optionally in the presence of a diluent.

Claim 28 (new): A process according to Claim 27 wherein the compound of formula (I) is obtained by reacting a chloromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (II)



in which

R^1 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

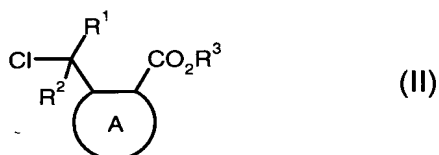
R^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 1-position, thiazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position, and oxazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position,

with a fluorinating agent, optionally in the presence of a diluent.

Claim 29 (new): A chloromethyl-substituted heterocycle of formula (II)



in which

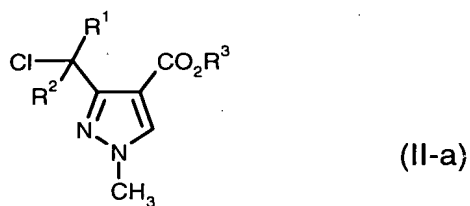
R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 1-position, thiazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position, and oxazole that is substituted by R⁴ in the 2-position.

Claim 30 (new): A compound of formula (II-a)



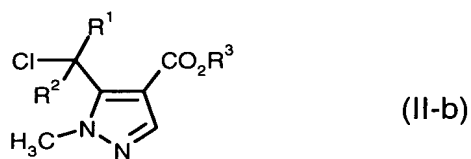
in which

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine, and

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl.

Claim 31 (new): A compound of formula (II-b)



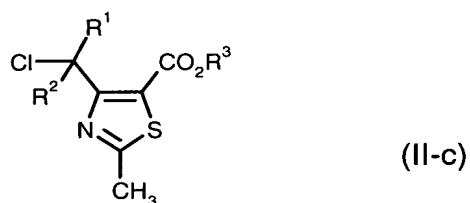
in which

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine, and

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl.

Claim 32 (new): A compound of formula (II-c)



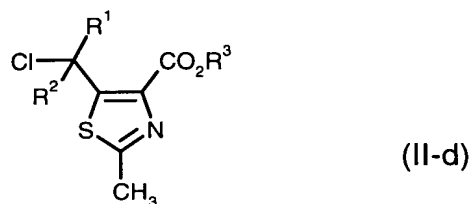
in which

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine, and

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl.

Claim 33 (new): A compound of formula (II-d)



in which

R¹ is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine,

R² is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine, and

R³ is C₁-C₆-alkyl. --